



Otway Burns viewed last week's snowstorm and its aftermath of sparkling white with aplomb, but some Yancey Countians who had hoped that Spring had arrived were dismayed to find themselves in a world suddenly cold and white again. Probably the least disturbed by the complete absence of any signs of early spring were the school children who didn't seem to mind school closing one little bit!

## District Lions Designate March As "Eye Bank Month" In Western NC

The forty-one Lions Clubs of District 31-B, Lions International, have designated the month of March as "Eye Bank Month" throughout the eleven western North Carolina counties comprising District 31-B. The Lions will concentrate local efforts upon publicizing the North Carolina Eye Bank program and upon securing eye pledges from local citizens wishing to donate eye tissue after death.

Mr. Doyce G. McClure, President of the Burnsville Lions Club has announced that his club will cooperate in this effort and that Bayard T. Howell, member of the local club, will be the local project chairman.

The North Carolina Eye Bank, located in Winston-Salem, was established via General Statute 90-216 in 1951. Since that time hundreds of successful corneal transplants have been completed. Cur-

rently the North Carolina Eye Bank has more than 81,000 wills on file from individuals wishing to donate their eyes for Eye Bank use. Any individual 18 or older may execute an eye will. Local Lions members have the necessary forms and are glad to assist anyone in completing the pledge.

The North Carolina facility now operates as The North Carolina Eye & Human Tissue Bank Inc. The change in name and total function was made possible through 1969 legislative action after an indication of a coming need for other tissue for transplants.

The purpose of an Eye Bank is to act as a clearing house between the persons needing corneal surgery and the persons who have willed their eyes to be used for surgery or research. This liaison service is most important as the eyes must be removed within four hours after the donor's death and the surgeon must, if possible, do the surgery within 48 hours after the donor's death.

Locally, any person or organization wishing additional information concerning the North Carolina Eye Bank program or wishing to donate eye tissue after death should contact a member of the Burnsville Lions Club.

their accomplishments and their needs and give them news pertinent to their section of Mitchell County. The Mitchell Ledger is entirely devoted to this purpose."

Tom Martin, editor of the newspaper, is a native of Liberty, N.C. After serving as Army medic in Germany for three years, he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1970 with a BA in English. Tom is living in Bakersville. "What I know of this area and these people I like," he says. "I look forward to making my home here!"

## Yancey Record Publisher Starts New Publication

Ed Yuzluk, owner-publisher of The Yancey Record, has teamed up with a former staff writer for the Sanford Herald, Tom Martin, to give the people in and around Bakersville their own local newspaper.

The Mitchell Ledger's first edition was published and distributed last Thursday and both men were very optimistic about its reception. "The people in Bakersville, Relief, and surrounding areas are giving The Mitchell Ledger their wholehearted support," stated Ed. "They want their own newspaper—one that will reflect

## NC Teacher Benefits, Tax Issue On House Agenda

By Ernest B. Messer

House of Representatives

This should have been a session of the General Assembly in which taxes were not an issue. But tax bills have been introduced to do just about everything that can be done to the tax system.

Bills have been introduced to do the following: to repeal the soft drink tax; to increase the soft drink tax to two cents; to repeal the tobacco tax; to

double the tobacco tax; to increase income taxes; and, to repeal two cents of the gas tax.

The tax issue is becoming so confused that it is my opinion that taxes will remain approximately as they are.

The Appropriations Committee heard the last requests for supplementary funds this week. State appropriations that have been requested beyond the recommended 4.3 billion budget amount to more than \$600,000,000.

Teachers are working hard for a pay raise that will increase their pay scale to the national average. The only problem is that, at present, no one knows where to get the \$140,000,000 that would be required to make this increase.

State Superintendent Craig Phillips requested \$219,000,000 in extra funds from the Appropriations Committee, to be used, among other things, to increase the teacher work year to ten months.

There seems to be considerable sentiment here in the General Assembly to give more consideration to fringe benefits for teachers.

The local option sales tax bill should pass this week. It contains two major provisions.

1. That County Commissioners may levy the tax on their own motion, without a vote of the people. This provision was necessary to permit the counties that have already approved the tax to levy it again.

2. That the question of levying the tax may be submitted to a vote of the people.

"Liquor-by-the-drink" is the big issue this week and will continue to be so for several more days.

The bill putting Yancey County back under the primary election law has passed both houses. Next year, all local candidates will have to be nominated in the primary rather than in a convention.

There have been questions raised about the cost of the primary. The only extra cost involved will be that connected with printing ballots.

All voting places must be manned and operated now so that voters can select nominees for state and regional offices. No extra personnel should be required to permit local candidates to be included on the ballot.

## Girl Scout Week Feted

Girl Scouts all over the country are celebrating Girl Scout Week, March 7-13, and the troops in Yancey County are no exception. Special activities have been planned within each troop to commemorate this event, and in some instances two or more troops in this County are banding together to celebrate.

Girl Scout Sunday, March 7, brought many girls to the First Baptist Church to worship as a group. They will come together again for worship at the Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 14.

Girl Scouts of America is an organization which is taking the lead in involving young people in many self-directed, self-planned projects. Some endeavors are directly related to the quality of our country's physical environment; others concern the interrelationships of people, and youth participation in planning and decision making.

This concept of responsible citizenship and service with others has always been a basic one in Girl Scouting. Today's Girl Scouts are involved in projects to help close the gaps separating economic, racial, cultural and age groups. Across the country, girls and adults from urban, suburban, and rural areas are working in partnership with national and local community groups toward these goals.

During this Girl Scout Week, marking the organization's 59th birthday, we extend our thanks and congratulations to the nearly 4 million girls, men and women in Girl Scouting.